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**NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1955

LINCOLN :
DONCASTERS LTD., MINT LANE



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NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1955

Chairman : MR. W. E. YOUNG, Branston.

Vice-Chairman : MR. G. W. HUTSON, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Treasurer : NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. SHARRARD, The Avenue, Lincoln.

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : MR. F. FOSTER,

Deputy Financial Officer : MR. T. L. HILL.

Legal Advisers : Messrs. DANBY, EPTONS & GRIFFITHS, Solicitors, Lincoln.

*Rating and Valuation Officer & Housing
Tenancy Manager.* MR. A. ELKINGTON,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :
MR. J. FREEMAN

Deputy Surveyor : MR J. B. SMART

Additional Sanitary Inspector :
MR. J. L. McFALL

Council Offices :

31 Clasketgate, Lincoln,

Telephone No. 8617.

Surveyors — 10095

Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge,
Metheringham.

Telephone No. 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating and Valuation Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102,178
Population 1954 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,410
1955 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,680
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,825
" " " 1954 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,419
No. of dwellinghouses, including houses with shops 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,850
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
Licensed Caravans ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Caravans on licensed sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Caravan Sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Rateable Value (31st December, 1955) ...	...	...	...	...	...	£127,361 (+ 3,883)	
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£510 (+ 17)	
To operate from 1/4/1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Rateable Value (New List) ...	...	...	...	...	...	£215,209	
Penny Rate Product ...	...	...	...	...	...	£900	

The usual agricultural pursuits were carried on in the District. There are also crop-drying and flax manufacture, an egg-packing station, brick-making kilns, aircraft repair works, sewage works for Lincoln City, light engineering factory, stone quarries and sand and gravel quarries, and last but not least the Malleable Iron Works. Food manufacture in a fairly large way is also carried on at the new N.A.A.F.I., Bakery at North Hykeham.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	474	273	201	Birth Rate 16·97 (17·06) E. & W. 15
Illegitimate	18	6	12	
Still Births—Legitimate	18	10	8	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Total Births 34·9 (13·6)
Deaths 	368	197	171	Death Rate 13·05 (13·3) E. & W. 11·7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	...	...	...	from sepsis 0 from other causes 0
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—	Total 9	M. 6	F. 3	
Legitimate		6	3	
Illegitimate		0	0	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	Total 13	M. 8	F. 5	
Legitimate		8	5	
Illegitimate		0	0	
Comparability Factors—	Births ·99	Deaths 1·02		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—	Total 26·9 (27·6)			E. & W. 24·9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia was accountable for 4·3% of the deaths.				Cancer 10·3% (13·8)
Heart Disease 39·1% (44·9)				Coronary Disease Angina 11·1%
Tuberculosis, respiratory, 1·9% (1·3)				Influenza ·3
Cancer of Lung 1·1% (1·78)				Strokes, etc. 13·8% (9·2)

Infantile mortality is again just above that for England and Wales, which happened to be the lowest ever recorded in this country, which at 24·9 per 1,000 births compares with 25·5 in 1954 and 52·8 in 1938, a wonderful drop of over 50% in 17 years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA

All the various components of the Health Service have been used fully by the public generally. We have indeed been fortunate in the provision of more hospital beds for all types of illness, both medical and surgical, acute and chronic. The situation in regard to tuberculosis both bed and general, seems to be better and the more general use of streptomycin and isoniazids has ensured the survival of many who would previously have died.

There is still severe strain on the Dental profession which may be somewhat modified if and when the proposed “ ancillaries ” come into being. But what is needed is a sense of urgency in the minds of many more young men and women to undertake the care of the nation’s teeth as a vocation as well as a means of earning a livelihood.

As previously noted the Ambulance service is at full stretch and astronomical figures are almost becoming commonplace therein. One wonders whether, if a charge albeit small, were made either against the

patient or the hospital using the ambulance (instead of exhortation only), there might not be a considerable saving or provision of alternative means of locomotion such as the private requisitioning of a relative's car, if private transport were really necessary. Considering the number of motor cars on the roads to-day it seems extraordinary how very seldom transport can be provided by relatives.

The cost for the counties as a whole, excluding London and Middlesex was 1/10 per mile and the numbers 311 persons per thousand, compared with London at 3/5 per mile and 355 per thousand.

In view of the prolongation of life generally as a result largely of the beneficent sulpha drugs and the anti-biotics plus the Welfare State, the problem of the aged, already serious is bound to get worse and worse. Certain it is that old people must be kept occupied as far as is humanly possible and that occupation must be interesting. If disease overtakes the senescent then those younger members of the family group who are willing to succour their elders (and of whom a few are truly shining examples) should be helped financially, as by so doing they are preserving for use in acute cases, a much needed and costly hospital bed. If, as so often the case the opposite holds good, some means should be found to "bell the cat" financially or otherwise.

The problem is a serious one which calls for deep thought on the part of all statesmen, sociologists and thinking people. Let us not forget that any one of us may have personal experience of the solution before the bell tolls.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Inspection of Meat

For the first six months of the year 1954 there were two licenced slaughterhouses, used for the slaughter of horses only.

When the controls on meat supplies were raised on July 1st, 1954, a further ten slaughterhouses were licenced, one of which subsequently has ceased to be licenced.

The following meat was inspected during the year :—

Cows 528 ; Bulls 41 ; Bullocks 1,084 ; Heifers 247 ; Calves 34 ; Sheep 3,014 ; Pigs 5,079 ; Horses 108.

Meat Condemned

	Carcase Meat	Offal
Bovine ...	14 tons 9 cwt. 58 lbs.	9 tons 7 cwt. 14 lbs.
Sheep ...	7 cwt. 42 lbs.	4 cwt. 421 lbs.
Pigs ...	3 tons 2 cwt. 103 lbs.	16 cwt. 105 lbs.
Horses ...	NIL.	2 cwt. 76 lbs.

Food Premises Registered under Section 14.

Premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	85
For making Sausages, Pies, etc.	...	...	30
Fish and Chip Fryers	...	...	13

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	948
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
Housing Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	701
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Inspections on Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Inspections under Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Inspections under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Housing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Sewer Dykes	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Chlorinators	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Visits to Council Houses <i>re</i> Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1284
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Buildings in course of Erection	...	...	...	...	...	...	622
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Visits to Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	721
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Visits <i>re</i> Connections to Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Garage and Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Pumping Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	133

Housing Generally

Since the end of the War and up to the end of the year the Council had had tenders approved for the erection of 983 permanent houses, 933 houses had been completed and of these, 154 houses were completed during the year. At the end of the year 50 houses were under construction.

97 houses were completed by private builders during the year, making a total of 408 since the war. 70 private dwellings were under construction at the year end.

<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>
<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>	<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>

Detailed Water Supply.

Aubourn, Haddington and South							
Hykeham	...	...	...	164	557	19	63
Bassingham	...	...	...	142	512	7	22
Beckingham	...	...	...	54	189	27	87
Boothby Graffoe	...	...	...	42	142	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	...	...	...	465	2940	—	—
Branston and Mere	...	...	...	457	1580	81	267
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	...	...	...	150	508	20	80
Canwick	...	...	...	67	229	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	...	...	...	46	147	12	43
Coleby	...	...	...	104	380	18	63
Doddington and Whisby	...	...	...	75	262	—	—
Dunston	...	...	...	77	264	51	176
Eagle and Swinethorpe	...	...	...	104	416	—	—
Harmston	...	...	...	61	581	20	57
Heighington	...	...	...	215	718	37	128
Leadenham	...	...	...	132	447	5	21
Metherringham	...	...	...	291	1048	120	413
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	...	...	...	144	504	40	136
Nocton	...	...	...	70	704	8	28
North Hykeham	...	...	...	997	3205	—	—
North Scarle	...	...	...	45	156	—	—
Norton Disney	...	...	...	36	130	9	31
Potterhanworth	...	...	...	87	304	18	57
Skellingthorpe	...	...	...	516	1965	—	—
Stapleford	...	...	...	20	70	17	58
Swinderby	...	...	...	88	1831	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	...	...	...	95	690	—	—
Thurlby	...	...	...	18	67	6	24
Waddington	...	...	...	356	2425	92	307
Washingborough	...	...	...	267	801	56	168
Welbourn	...	...	...	114	347	25	78
Wellingore	...	...	...	129	546	23	73

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1955

<i>Nature of Sample</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Chemical	—	—	—
Bacteriological	64	—	64

Scavenging

Refuse is collected in all our Parishes : partly by direct labour and partly by contract.

Cesspools to private houses are emptied free at intervals of not less than twelve months. At other times, and in the case of premises, other than private houses, a charge of 30s. is made.

Privy pail closets are emptied free in the parishes of North Hykeham and Waddington. Privy vaults are emptied at a charge according to the time taken .

Sewage Schemes

During the year the sewage scheme for the parishes of Branston, Heighington and Washingborough was advertised for tenders. The Minister of Housing and Local Government gave his consent for the carrying out of the scheme at the year end, and 1956 will see the work well under way. No further progress was made during the year on the scheme for Metherringham.

In North Hykeham and Waddington a total of 717 house drains were connected to the sewer during the year.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

18 preliminary notices were served during the year, 11 Statutory notices have been served and 6 have been complied with by owners.

During the year :—

25 cottages were reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation.

12 Closing Orders and 9 Demolition Orders were made. Undertakings to repair and improve 6 cottages were accepted from the owners and 3 other cottages were repaired and improved as a result of undertaking given previously.

31 applications for Improvement Grants in respect of 46 dwellings were approved.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1955)

				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M	F.
Totals	...	...	5	4	...	1	3
Deaths	...	...	5	2	...	0	1

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	8	—
Pneumonia	15	4	16
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis—Paralytic	1	1	—
Non-Paralytic	2	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Measles	384	1	—
Whooping Cough	95	3	—
Dysentery	3	2	—
Malaria (R)	—	—	—
Hepatitis Infective	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—

GENERAL REMARKS

Diphtheria

Again we have the joy of a nil return. But for how long? Before the war at least 1,000 deaths per year occurred from this disease, and many thousands of hospital beds were needed to nurse these and all the other cases that recovered, albeit with in many cases damage to heart or nerve. Mother save your child now by the simple expedient of having your child or children immunised against diphtheria! Polio and vaccination against it, seem to have stolen the limelight recently, but the thought of the gremlin Diphtheria must be, ever before us. In England and Wales there were only nine deaths.

Measles

We had a very large number of cases of this disease **but no deaths, a remarkable achievement.** In days gone by not only were there many deaths from the complications of measles such as bronchitis and pneumonia, but a tremendous amount of residual suffering, from such sequelae as chronic bronchitis, otitis media with offensive ear discharge, blepharitis and other eye conditions. Here thanks to sulpha drugs and the marvelous anti-biotics the mother can watch her off-spring throw off this once dread disease in a third of the time and with only a minimum of suffering. A great triumph so easily forgotten!!

Whooping Cough

A similar triumph though not so spectacular.

Tuberculosis

This is still a national problem. We should not have, say, 40,000 people a year incapacitated by what is a preventable disease. Between 1939 and 1954 deaths have tumbled in this country from 25,000 to 8,000.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) per 100,000 population in 1954 for the United Kingdom was 19, whereas it was 35.3 for Ireland, 31.9 for France, 7.5 for the Netherlands and 7.7 for Denmark.

Heart Disease

The figures for the past year are slightly better than for 1954 but there are still roughly four out of every ten deaths due to heart disease and of these 1 in 4 is due to Angina or Coronary Thrombosis. This leads one to think of . . .

The problem of Stress

This is rather more complex than people imagine. It is probable that many of the answers will be found as much in social as in medical research.

Overwork as such, so long held up as a bogey does very little harm. The man who spends the whole of the day doing a job he loves will certainly tire himself physically but his recuperative powers are remarkable and his energies are renewed in even a brief period of relaxation. Can it be that modern civilisation with its mass produced techniques is reducing the chance of any man finding a job which gives real satisfaction and interest? Work may become something like riding a bicycle—so long as one keeps moving one stays upright but the moment one stops one falls.

Poverty and lack of money were in the past considered to be the cause of much stress. With the advent of the Welfare State however, the stress diseases have become commoner not more rare. Is it possible that the chronically insecure learned how to tolerate their insecurity, while the newly-secure feel that their security is precarious? Or are some of these material factors far less important than one used to imagine and the **spiritual** factors of paramount importance.

Accidents and Disease

“More children die of accidents than of disease” is the provocative heading of a W.H.O. document. Thus in 1953 in twenty-one countries dealt with 8,415 boys between 5 and 19 years of age died from infectious and parasitic disease compared with 13,414 in the same age group killed in accidents, *i.e.* 100/159. In many countries transport accidents tend to dominate the field. Thus in U.S.A. transport accident mortality rate is 42.8 per 100,000, whilst for all other accidents put together it is 42.1. Germany has figures of 41 and 40.9 respectively. In England and Wales where so many women are now driving cars 4.9 deaths per 100,000 are due to transport and 20 to accidents from all other causes.

In this connection I would like to make a point about our loss of perspective with regard to say polio vaccination and accidents. If the trials of this vaccination are successful they will reduce the chances of a child in the age groups concerned contracting paralytic poliomyelitis from 1 in 4,000 to 1 in 12,000. No doubt the two cases protected are very well worth saving but the cost will be high. And our zeal in this respect.

cannot fail to underline the complacency with which we allow cyclists of the same age groups to adventure on our murderous main roads, thick as they are with traffic, and far more prolific sources of death and disablement. It is clear we are not very logical in these matters.

Polio-Myelitis

We had two cases of non-paralytic polio from North Scarle and North Hykeham in ladies of 41 years and 32 years respectively, who were diagnosed after quite a period of observation in Hospital. The one case of paralytic polio occurred in a child of 6 from Stapleford.

Water

With such a wonderful supply of water as we have it seems strange to be talking of possible scarcity. Whenever we get a period of prolonged fine weather there is always thrust upon us the necessity for conserving our supply. But this is only half the story. The total amount supplied in England and Wales is in the region of 1,750 million gallons a day, say 40 gallons per head of the population. This has been rising through the last two decades and it is estimated that at least twice the amount consumed in 1938 will be needed in 15 years time. This is due partly to the increase in population, to its rising standard of living, but also to the phenomenal increase in the demands in the industrial field. Thus a ton of paper requires 64,000 gallons, a ton of steel 65,000 gallons, a barrel of alcohol one hundred times the amount of water. And an atomic power station needs much more of it than a coal-fired one.

We may be worried by the possibility of large agricultural demands in the future. The continued growth of crops and grass by summer irrigation has been demonstrated at the Rothamsted Experimental Station and could use up to say 250,000 gallons of water per acre in a dry summer.

We depend for storage on reservoirs overground and natural storage underground. The former take up much useful land but we must keep our storage capacity reasonably in equilibrium and we know that there is a steady fall of water tables.

Nature supplies some 2,000 gallons per head per day—a bountiful supply, indeed, but the greater part returns rapidly to the sea, via the rivers. Afforestation may help, even artificial recharge of underground sources. We all take water so much for granted. Let us plan now so that we are not caught napping in twenty years from now. Also let us remember that the hardest task in any water emergency is to arouse public co-operation—Public response is comparatively small until the deliberate limitations of supply have to take place in spite of all kinds of publicity.

Sewage Schemes

It is extremely gratifying to find that more and more people are connecting up in Waddington and North Hykeham.

Branston, Heighington and Washingborough are now on the way

to join the happy band of country folk who are enjoying town amenities. Metherringham is, however, still denied.

Finally, it is once again my great pleasure to thank your staff for their loyal co-operation in this great and successful work for the community of North Kesteven.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.		M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	5	2	19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	7
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	0	1	20 Other heart disease ...	27	66
3 Syphilitic disease ...	2	0	21 Other circulatory disease ...	13	4
4 Diphtheria ...	0	0	22 Influenza ...	1	0
5 Whooping cough ...	0	0	22 Pneumonia ...	11	5
6 Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	24 Bronchitis ...	5	4
7 Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	25 Other diseases of res- piratory system ...	3	0
8 Measles ...	0	0	26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	0	2
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0	27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	3	28 Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	1	29 Hyperplasia of prostate ...	3	0
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	2	30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	0	3	31 Congenital malforma- tions	1	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	15	7	32 Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	23	27
15 Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	0	0	33 Motor vehicle accidents ...	5	0
16 Diabetes ...	0	1	34 All other accidents ...	2	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	33	18	35 Suicide... ..	5	1
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	29	12	36 Homicide and opera- tions of war ...	0	0
			All causes ...	197	171

